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10/767,782

MAR 19 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 23-41, 50-53, 55-56 and 61-62 now remain pending in the application. Claims 48, 54 and 57-59 have been canceled and Claims 55 and 62 have been amended.


Claims 1, 50, 55 and 61 are independent.

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-21, 23-41, 50-53, 61 and 62 are allowable (although the Office Action Summary listed Claim 59 as objected to, it appears that the body of the Action at page 2 correctly indicated Claim 62 was objected to – Applicants assume that Claim 59 is allowable as previously indicated – if this assumption is incorrect and Claim 59 was objected to, further clarification as to the reason for objection is respectfully requested). The typographical error raised in the objection has been addressed in the foregoing amendments to Claim 62. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Claims 55-58 were rejected under 35 USC 102(c) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,235,019 (Lehmann et al.) and Claims 48 and 54 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehman. Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed. However, in order to place the application in condition for allowance, independent Claim 48, and Claim 54 (dependent upon Claim 48), have been canceled. In addition, the limitations of dependent Claim 59 have been added to amended independent Claim 55 (and Claim 59 accordingly canceled) and dependent Claims 57-58 have accordingly been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now clearly in condition for allowance and prompt review and issuance is accordingly requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues may be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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